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EGLA-6956

- 7 JAN. 1954

Chief of Mission, Frankfurt

Chief of Base, Pullach

INFO: EE

Operational/UJ-DREADFUL/GART

Elisabeth KUSTERS

Reference: EONA-3417

1. According to reference, [] was most interested in having traces of a certain Elisabeth KUSTERS, who had been a contact of SCHNIEPER.

2. Our POB files contain no traces of Elisabeth KUSTERS. However, there is a fascinating trace of Elisabeth KUESTER. Rejected ZIPPER project 39 (we find no record that this project was forwarded though it probably was), involved the recruitment of one Elisabeth KUESTER (said to be a cover name), born in 1904, nationality German. KUESTER allegedly managed a boarding house in Weimar frequented exclusively by Soviet officers. She was furthermore an old personal friend of UJ-DREADFUL, who was to be her case officer. Entirely aside from the question of KUESTER's possible identity with Subject, the project proposal makes tantalizing reading in its UJ-DREADFUL context, as follows:

"Born in Bohemia, the daughter of a professor, she attended elementary school, graduated from high school and was married to a noted lawyer who later became a high-ranking government official. After her husband was murdered by the Czechs in 1945, she was expelled with her children to Weimar where early in 1946 she was employed with (and soon became manageress of) a boarding house frequented exclusively by Soviet officers...Mrs. KUESTER has been in contact with (UJ-DREADFUL)...since 1931. (UJ-DREADFUL) considers her a personality of outstanding intelligence, will-power and character. From personal experiences (murder of her husband) she is a sworn enemy of the Bolshevik regime.

"Mrs. KUESTER in her capacity as manageress is in steady contact with Soviet officers and often has conversations with them on present-day questions. She thus is in a position to determine attitude and character of officers living at her boarding house and select those who appear to be willing for cooperation with the West. Whether contacted and recruited officers are to remain in their positions or desert must be left to Mrs. KUESTER's discretion. She at any rate would have the mission to contact prospective deserters and establish connections in Soviet military headquarters.

Dist:
3 - COM
3 - EE (DIRECT)
2 - []
6 January 1954

File: UJ-DREADFUL
UJ-DRIZZLY

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"Mrs. KUESTER's son, a former officer of the former German Armed Forces, who presently works as an agricultural worker in Thuringia, will be ordered by (UJ-DREADFUL) to go to the US Zone of Germany where he will be given detailed information on the missions to be assigned to his mother. He then would have to recruit his mother. Because of his year-long acquaintance and thorough knowledge of her person, (UJ-DREADFUL) is positive that the connection will be brought about."

3. If UJ-DREADFUL was guilty as suspected at the time project 39 was proposed, the project would not be a bad attempt by his directors to set up a controlled operation through which planted defectors might have been fed to the AIS. This 1949 project from the Weimar area also casts a somewhat new light on the mysterious report from MGBA-3098 (see UJ-DREADFUL file) that a woman acquaintance of UJ-DREADFUL saw him in Leipzig during 1949.

4. Although the trace appears unlikely, and the UJ-DREADFUL angle will likely prove to be another blind alley, it appears advisable to request from the British all available data on the Elisabeth KUESTERS connected with the SCHNEIDER case. We have omitted Bonn from distribution of this document because of UJ-DREADFUL's part in the above trace, and because we do not know how you will want to query the British further. The information above referring solely to Elisabeth KUESTER may, of course, be passed to the British. Please let POB have any further info on Subject which may be obtained.

Approved by:

[Signature]

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